

INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES
5th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2008 - 3:00 P.M.

The International Bridge Commission met at the above place and date.

Item 1: Chair Tanny Berg called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Those present were:

Tanny Berg, Chair – D-1 (Rep. Ann Morgan Lilly)
Mike Breitingner, D-7 (Rep. Steve Ortega)
Gerardo Camacho, D-3 (Rep. J. Alexandro Lozano)
Analisa Cordova, D-2 (Rep. Susie Byrd)
Mike Dipp, Vice-Chair – (Mayor John Cook)
Saul Frank, D-8 (Rep. Beto O'Rourke)

ABSENT

Daniel Barnes, D-4 (Rep. Melina Castro)
VACANT, D-5 (Rep. Rachel Quintana)
Blanca Dominguez, D-6 (Rep. Eddie Holguin, Jr.)

OTHERS PRESENT

Mark Shosmith, Assistant City Attorney
Daryl W. Cole, Street Department Director
Richard Bristol, Street Department

Item 2:

Motion made by Mr. Camacho, seconded by Ms. Cordova and carried to approve the Minutes to the last meeting.

AYES: Mr. Berg, Mr. Breitingner, Mr. Camacho, Ms. Cordova, Mr. Dipp, Mr. Frank.

NAYS: None

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Mr. Barnes Ms. Dominguez.

Item 3: Discussion and Action on Presentation of Bridge Management Report.

a. Mr. Cole reported on the bridge capital projects at Stanton and Paso del Norte (PDN) bridges: Issues pending on the properties needed for the Stanton Street Bridge Project, and the increase on the cost of the PDN Project. Mr. Cole stated that the Engineering Department has given notice to the consultant regarding the increase in the cost.

b. Discussion held on the bridge crossing activities. Copies on the bridge crossing activities comparison report on the Zaragoza Bridge and the downtown bridges were handed out to Commissioners.

Item 4: Discussion and Action on the GSA Head House Project at the Paso Del Norte Bridge.

Discussions held on the project's schedule, and on purchasing signage for the pedestrian bridge. Chair Berg requested that we get a written status report on the schedule, and a report for the next meeting on the status of the signs.

Mr. Cole stated that he will send a thank you letter to GSA with approval from the City Attorney's Office for accommodating the City of El Paso and the community.

Motion made by Mr. Camacho, seconded by Mr. Frank and carried to send a thank you letter to GSA as discussed.

AYES: Mr. Berg, Mr. Breitinger, Mr. Camacho, Ms. Cordova, Mr. Dipp, Mr. Frank.

NAYS: None

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Mr. Barnes Ms. Dominguez.

Item 5: Discussion and Action on Potential Proposals for Shortening Wait Times at the Ports of Entry.

Mr. Cole stated that the MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) has been doing studies involving both mayors (Juarez and El Paso) on the wait times, and that funding is available from several sources. Copies of the research projects on the bridge crossing activities were mailed out to the Commissioners.

Chair Berg announced that Victor Aguirre, who was appointed by Representative Rachel Quintana, has resigned from the Commission. He will speak to Representative Quintana about appointing someone else to replace Mr. Aguirre.

Chair Berg stated that he has yet to receive a legal opinion from the City Attorney's Office, and is requesting that we note for the record, that we would like to again ask the City Attorney's Office for a written legal opinion as to why we were precluded from writing a letter on behalf of the Commission only to the GSA. He stated that the Commission had passed a motion unanimously to send a letter, and the letter was sent to the Mayor's office, and even though the Mayor did send out the letter, Chair Berg stated that it was not sent from the Commission.

Item 6: OPEN COMMENT PERIOD:

There were no open comments.

Item 7: Adjourn.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Approved as to form:

_____ Secretary